



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HENDERSON DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND POSSESSING 6 GUNS

OWENSBORO, KY - Manford D. Stewart, age 45, of 217-A Mill Street, Henderson, Kentucky, pled guilty to trafficking in methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a firearm by a drug user, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Stewart admitted that on or about March 31, 2006, he possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Stewart also admitted to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of the following firearms:

1. A Marlin Firearms Co., Model 200 , 12-gauge shotgun,
2. A Marlin Firearms Co., Model 990, .22 caliber rifle,
3. A Mossburg, Model 500, 12-gauge shotgun,
4. A Remington Arms Co., Model 098, 12-gauge shotgun,
5. A Springfield Firearms Co., Model 944Y, 410-gauge shotgun,
6. A Harrington and Richardson, Model 098, gauge sawed-off shotgun
7. Model P-380, .380 caliber, semi automatic pistol

On March 31, 2006, Stewart sold a confidential informant 3.5 grams of methamphetamine. On June 1, 2006, law enforcement authorities executed a search warrant at

Stewart's residence at 217 Mill Street, Apartment A, in Henderson, Kentucky, and seized narcotics, drug paraphernalia and weapons.

The maximum potential penalties are not more than 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kentucky State Police, comprising the Audubon Area Gun Task Force (AAGTF).

The plea was entered before Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Stewart is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge McKinley on August 17, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

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